A BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

BRISTOL VOLUNTEERS

FROM THEIR EARLIEST RECORDED FORMATION

TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE

TERRITORIAL ARMY

IN 1908

TO WHICH IS ADDED AN ACCOUNT OF THE

NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY CAVALRY

AND THE

ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS

BY

EDWIN T. MORGAN,

QR.-MR.-SERGT. BRISTOL RIFLES.

PRICE - - - SIXPENCE.

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DEDICATION.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR OF BRISTOL

EDWARD BURNET JAMES, Esq., J.P.

HONORARY COLONEL 4TH BATTALION GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT,

Worthily representing a long succession of Chief Magistrates, who, by virtue of their appointment to that high office, have been (in the stirring times of the Napoleonic Wars, as well as since the re-establishment of the Force in 1859) officially connected with the Volunteer movement in the City of Bristol,

THIS RECORD OF THE PATRIOTIC ZEAL OF HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS IS (BY KIND PERMISSION) RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

HIS LORDSHIP'S OBEDIENT SERVANT,

EDWIN T. MORGAN.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE "passing" of the Volunteer service, which under the new Army Scheme becomes the second line of the Territorial Army, seems to call for more notice than is to be found in the old formula, "The King is dead; long live the King!"

It is a matter of national pride that our regular Army is, and has been for centuries, a "Volunteer" Army, inasmuch as enlistment into it is a purely voluntary act on the part of men "able, ready, and willing to serve the King." So in the case of the old constitutional force, the Militia, although every able-bodied citizen was liable to be what our fathers called "drawn" for it, yet happily successive Governments did not find it necessary to exercise their powers of ordering a "ballot for the Militia" during any of our recent wars; voluntary enlistment having provided in times of stress sufficient men, not only for the Militia battalions themselves, but also to replace the wastage in the regular battalions of the regiments to which they were linked. Long may that patriotic spirit continue to animate the manhood of Britain!

At the time Mr. Cardwell's army scheme substituted "territorial" for "numerical" designations of British infantry regiments, I remember hearing a gallant Major of the old 28th say that for the life of him he could not see why men should not fight as well if called "Double Gloucesters" as they did when known as the 28th or 61st Foot.

As one who was for 35 years an active member of the Bristol Rifles, I would earnestly express the hope that our young men will allow no change of name or details of organisation to prevent the free offering of personal service for the defence of their native land.

Volunteers have never been wanting when Britain has been engaged in wars, whether "foreign" or "civil." In the former, love of adventure, or even of fighting for fighting's sake, and in the latter a feeling of sympathy with one or other of the causes in deadly conflict, has been found sufficient inducement for men to join one or other of the contending forces. But, for the defence of England against threatened invasion, as when in the time of the Spanish Armada—

> "Right sharp and quick the bells all night
> Rang out from Bristol town,
> And e'er the day three hundred horse
> Had met on Clifton Down,"

the "call to arms" has always been readily responded to by a people more or less prepared for the summons.

As the port of embarkation for the many Expeditionary Forces sent into Ireland, as also from its proximity to the Welsh border, Bristol was for centuries familiar with the stir and bustle of military life, a familiarity which was not altogether a source of pleasure or profit to the citizens, when, as frequently happened, a large body of soldiers was detained in the city by contrary winds.

During the long struggle between King Charles I. and the Parliament Bristol furnished her quota of men to the contending forces on either side, and with equal impartiality sustained a siege by each party in turn.

It will be seen from the particulars in the succeeding chapters that Bristol, although a commercial city, and never neglecting the duty of providing for its own safety, has taken, and may we not confidently say, will continue to take, a full share in the work of National Defence.

E. T. M.

A BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

BRISTOL VOLUNTEERS.

CHAPTER I.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE OLDEN TIME

(1625 TO 1814).

THE first properly-organised Corps of Bristol Volunteers (as distinguished from the "Trained Bands") was established about the year 1625. At a meeting of the Privy Council, held on October 22nd in that year, a petition was presented from "the captains, trained men, and other young men of the City," praying to be allowed to set up an Artillery yard, where they might learn the use of arms at their own charge. The application was approved, and the desired permission granted.

From a description of a visit to Bristol, in a Manuscript in the British Museum, we learn that in 1634, "To add to her grace and beauty, Bristol maintains a voluntary company of gentle, proper, martial, disciplined men, who have their arms in a handsome Artillery house, newly built up in the Castle Yard, where once a year they entertain both Earls and Lords and a great many Knights and gentry of rank and quality."

Political troubles broke up this Association about 1642.

After the Restoration of King Charles II. these Volunteers were re-established. On September 25th, 1677, the Bristol Council ordered that such gentlemen as might think fit to join an Association of an "Artillery Yard,"

for their better instruction in military discipline, might have the use of the Bowling Green in the Marsh (now Queen Square).

In a letter dated March, 1678, addressed to the Mayor of Bristol (Sir John Lloyd), the Marquis of Worcester, who was Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol, as well as of the Counties of Gloucester, Hereford, and Monmouth, signified His Majesty's approval of a proposal to establish a company, to be called "The Friendly Society of the Exercisers of Armes within the Citty of Bristoll," and on March 1st, 1679, nominated his "dear son Charles, Lord Herbert," to be Captain and leader of the same.

The original documents relating to the establishment of this force, with the signatures of the first 101 members, are amongst the treasures at the Art Gallery. The "Articles and Orders" (nineteen in number) for the governance of the Corps, some of which are exceedingly quaint, are much too long for insertion here.

In January, 1716, during the Jacobite Rebellion, upon a plot to seize Bristol for the Pretender being reported, two troops of cavalry were voluntarily formed by the citizens. The Corporation, to mark its approval of the loyal zeal of the citizens, resolved that "two banners, two trumpets, and two standards, and two new coats for the trumpeters, be provided at the city charges, and that the said trumpeters be added to the city musick, with salaries."

Again, in October, 1745, after the landing of the "Young Pretender" in Scotland, a Volunteer "Association" was formed, and a sum of nearly £30,000 raised for the support of a new regiment formed by Lord Berkeley.

During the wars of the 18th century Bristol was ever ready with offers of men and money for the service of the Kingdom. On the outbreak of the revolutionary war with the American Colonies, the Bristol Society of Merchants, at a meeting on June 26th, 1779, adopted an address to the King, and voted £1,000 to encourage enlistment in the forces. On August 28th of the same year a public meeting

was held to promote the formation of a Volunteer Corps, and although the proposal met with little support, a committee called "The Anti-American Committee" reported that they had raised 1,306 men for the service of the Government. A new subscription was started to obtain 1,000 more Infantry and Marines, and £2,000 was contributed.

Not, however, until nearly the close of the 18th century did the Government officially recognise or support the Volunteer movement. The threats of invasion by our neighbours the French were continuous throughout the year 1796, an army being assembled on the coast of Normandy waiting a favourable opportunity for a descent upon our coasts. In "Felix Farley's Journal" of February 18th, 1797, we read that a number of merchants and tradesmen, who had entered into an association with a view of guarding the French prisoners at Stapleton in case the Militia should be called away for service elsewhere, would hold a meeting on that day to extend the movement. This meeting took place at the Guildhall, when it was resolved to establish a "Military Volunteer Association." The proposed corps was to be of infantry, 1,000 strong, the whole force to serve without pay. The Government were expected to find arms, ammunition, and drums; also the pay of an adjutant, 10 sergeants, and 10 drummers, and it was stipulated that in no exigency should the corps be removed above one day's march from Bristol. The Mayor for the time being was to be Honorary Colonel, and Evan Baillie, of Park Row, and William Gore, of Brislington, were recommended to the Crown as suitable lieutenant-colonels.

Four days later, February 22nd, the French landed at Fishguard, in Pembrokeshire, and this invasion, in spite of its ludicrous termination (1,200 Frenchmen surrendering without a struggle to the local Volunteers and Militia) proved a powerful stimulus to the movement; and upon the Militia being sent away in hot haste to Wales the Volunteers undertook to guard the French prisoners of

war at Stapleton. Besides the infantry, there were two troops of light cavalry, called the "Bristol Light Horse Volunteers." The corps at one time numbered nearly 1,500, exclusive of a Clifton corps of 132, and a Westbury corps of 136.

The orders said to have been issued by General Hoche, the commander of the French troops that landed in Wales, to Colonel Tate, one of his subordinates, were published in "Felix Farley's Journal" on February 17th, 1798. After stating that the destruction of Bristol was of the last importance, Tate was instructed to sail up the Avon at night, land about five miles from its mouth on the Gloucestershire side, and set fire to the part of Bristol lying to windward, which would "produce the total ruin of the town, the port, the docks, and the vessels."

After the Peace of Amiens in 1802 the Volunteers were with scant courtesy disbanded, being drawn up in front of the Bush Hotel, opposite the Exchange, and curtly informed that the Government had no further need of their services; but war breaking out again in 1803, the corps was forthwith re-organised, the citizens subscribing several thousand pounds in aid of the movement. It was proposed at first to raise only 1,000 infantry, but the enthusiasm was so great that corps of artillery and cavalry as well as infantry were formed, and the total number of members soon reached 1,500. A Volunteer Rifle Corps, composed of two companies, was formed at his own expense by Sir John White Jervis, then residing in Clifton. Corps of 200 each were also formed at Clifton, Westbury, and Bedminster, with another corps at Pill called the "Sea Fencibles." It is interesting to note that in the two counties of Gloucester and Somerset, in which Bristol is geographically situate, no fewer than 16,000 volunteers were enrolled, although their population was at that time little more than half a million.

On October 27th, 1808, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester reviewed the Bristol Volunteers, together with the Clifton,

Westbury, and Henbury Corps, and Sir John Jervis's Rifle Corps, the gathering being in Queen Square.

On October 25th, 1809, the day upon which King George III. entered upon the 50th year of his reign, the Bristol Volunteers, 800 in number, after service in St. Paul's Church, attended the laying of the foundation stone of the Obelisk in the centre of Portland Square.

The Volunteers were called up for duty for a few weeks yearly, during which time they received military pay. The old Guard House in Wine Street was put in repair to accommodate the garrison, and the Government built an armoury for 20,000 stand of arms outside Lawford's Gate, the site of which is now known as "Armoury Square." Immediately after the Peace of 1814 the Government again disbanded the Volunteers. After the final parade the colours were deposited in the house of Colonel Baillie in Park Row, and the weapons in the Armoury at Stapleton Road. Silver medals were struck to commemorate the services of the regiment, one of which was given to each officer and private. A considerable number of these interesting medals are to be found in the cabinets of numismatists and other collectors, two being preserved in the Art Gallery in Queen's Road. A piece of plate, value £200, was presented to Colonel Baillie in recognition of his 20 years' service with the regiment. Lieut.-Colonel Gore died shortly after the peace, and £3,000, part of the fund subscribed for the use of the corps, was given to his wife and five children, "in respectful testimony of his meritorious conduct." In November, 1814, a monument bearing Colonel Gore's portrait was placed in the North transept of Bristol Cathedral, at the expense of the members of the regiment. It is flanked by marble figures in uniform, which are interesting as showing the dress of the old Bristol Volunteers. A portrait in oils of Colonel Gore is in the possession of the Bristol Rifles.

A glance at the following list of officers will at once show how large a proportion of those names are borne by

citizens, who, inheriting not only their names but their spirit of patriotism, have in our own day thrown themselves zealously into the work of Volunteering, as well as many other departments of our Civic life:—Baillie, Gore, Tyndall, Montague, Pinney, Claxton, King, Riddle, Goldney, Payne, Hill, Bissett, Gibbs, Bush, Tobin, Gordon, Miles, Cave, Ames, Pearsall, Vaughan, Fedden, Kingsmill, Biggs, Harvey, Salmon, Hilhouse, Hassell, Harford, Braikenridge, Barrow, Perry, Edwards, Llewellyn, Beames, Coathupe, Stephens, Lean, Morgan, Elwyn, and Alleyne.

CHAPTER II.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT (1859 to 1908).

THE long series of wars with France having ended at "King-making Waterloo," for many years it seemed as though the fear of invasion was quite banished from the minds of the British people. The desire for military glory, which seems to be part of the nature of our neighbours across the Channel, was probably a considerable factor in inducing them to become our allies in the war with Russia, but the Crimean campaign happily ended, the loud blusterings of certain French officers and inflammatory articles in sundry Paris journals awoke the British nation to the peril of living in a "fool's paradise," and to the necessity of preparing for the worst whilst hoping for the best. The Militia was strengthened and re-organised, and then came a demand for the formation of corps of Volunteers, as in the stirring times of 1797. Many thousands of Riflemen, whose happily-chosen motto was "Defence, not Defiance," were speedily enrolled. The Prince Consort wrote thus to Baron Stockmar:—"Volunteer Corps are being formed in all the towns. The lawyers of the Temple go through regular drill. Lords Spencer, Abercorn, Elcho, and others are put through their facings in Westminster Hall in the same rank and file with shopkeepers. Close on 50,000 are already under arms."

When the Government decided to authorise the formation of Volunteer Corps, the Prince applied himself to the study of the means of organising these bodies in such a way as to make them a permanent means of defence on which the country could with confidence rely in an emergency. The results were embodied by him in an elaborate series of "Instructions to Lords-Lieutenant," which were

adopted by the Government, and ordered to be issued forthwith. Accordingly they were printed, and sent out on May 25th, 1859, to all the Lords-Lieutenant throughout the kingdom, and formed the code for the organisation and working of the Volunteer force.

At the Anchor Society's Dinner on Colston Day, November 13th, 1858, the Hon. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P., called attention to the neglected state of our national defences, stating that England ought always to be free from the danger of foreign invasion. He strongly urged the desirability of training the youth of the country to arms, as had been the custom amongst our forefathers.

On February 2nd, 1859, a preliminary meeting was held, and at another meeting, on May 18th (the Mayor, Mr. J. Poole, presiding), the proposal to form a Volunteer Rifle Corps assumed a definite form. It was resolved that the Mayor for the time being should be honorary colonel. Major Robert Bush, formerly of the 96th Foot, was recommended as lieutenant-colonel, and Captain H. B. O. Savile, of the North Gloucestershire Militia, as major.

The great popularity of the Rifle Corps led to an extension of the movement, and the Earl of Ducie (Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire) received an intimation from the Government that "an Artillery Corps for the city would not only receive official sanction, but would be considered a valuable adjunct to the Volunteer force already established." Accordingly, at a meeting held at the Guildhall on November 9th, 1859 (the Mayor, Mr. J. Poole, presiding), resolutions approving of the formation of an Artillery Corps were unanimously adopted, and Major H. B. O. Savile, then major in the Bristol Rifles, was appointed major-commandant of the new corps.

On June 23rd, 1860, the Queen reviewed 21,000 Volunteers in Hyde Park; over 1,000 of these being from Bristol. The Prince Consort, speaking at a dinner held the same day, said: "The Volunteer Force already exceeds 130,000. To what extent the country is capable of exerting itself in

real danger is shown by the number of Volunteers, which in 1804 reached the extraordinary figure of 479,000. We are apt to forget that in contrast with every other country in the world all our services are composed exclusively of Volunteers, whether Navy, Coastguard, Army, Militia, or Constabulary. May," said he, "the noble and patriotic spirit which such a fact reveals remain ever unimpaired, and may God's blessing, of which this nation has seen such unmistakable evidence, continue to rest upon these voluntary services." To which pious aspiration all lovers of their country will utter a fervent "Amen."

The first gathering of the "National Rifle Association" was held at Wimbledon on July 2nd, 1860, the first shot being fired by the Queen. On September 18th, 1860, a review of all the Volunteers of the county was held at Gloucester.

In the "London Gazette" of April 16th, 1861, appeared an official announcement of the creation of an "Engineer Corps" for Bristol, Mr. Harwood, secretary of the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company, being appointed its commandant.

On June 17th, 1862, a review of the Volunteers of Bristol and the neighbouring counties took place on Durdham Down, 6,746 being under arms. A grand stand to accommodate 5,000 spectators was well filled, and it was computed that upwards of 100,000 persons were present.

The old muzzle-loaders with which the Corps were armed were superseded in 1871 by the Snider-Enfield breech-loaders, and in the same year the Volunteers were invited to take part in the operations of the "Flying Column" near Aldershot, those who attended being for the first time brigaded with Regular troops.

In February, 1874, a fourth Volunteer organisation was started under the name of "The Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers," Captain Dunn, R.N., being its first commander. This popular corps had at one time no fewer than 400 names on its muster roll; but it was, in the wisdom (or

otherwise) of the Government of the day, disbanded in April, 1892, to be, however, revived under somewhat different conditions of service in 1903.

On July 1st, 1876, in celebration of the return from India of the Prince of Wales (our present King), a grand review of 30,000 Volunteers took place in Hyde Park; and another great muster of citizens soldiers, numbering 56,000, marched past before the Queen at Windsor on July 9th, 1881.

In connection with the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in 1887, there was a parade of all the troops in Bristol on June 21st, and on June 25th a review on the Downs, when, owing to the disorderly behaviour of a number of spectators who resented the erection of a grand stand on a public place, the proceedings after the march past had to be abandoned.

On June 16th, 1888, there was another review on the Downs with a "sham fight."

With a view to recognising the services of Volunteer officers, the Government in 1893 instituted the "Volunteer decoration" for officers who had served continuously for 20 years; and on May 13th of that year those officers entitled received the decoration at a review held in Ashton Park, Colonel Salis-Schwabe commanding.

Two years later, on May 11th, 1895, the medal for "Long service in the Volunteer Force" was awarded to non-commissioned officers and privates, General Sir Richard Harrison reviewing the local Corps on Durdham Down, and presenting the coveted marks of distinction.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, there was a united church parade at the Cathedral on June 20th and a review on Durdham Down on June 22nd.

The outbreak of the war with the South African Republics created another wave of military enthusiasm, and on July 24th, 1900, it was announced that the Queen had been "pleased to accept the services of another battalion of Bristol Volunteers, to be designated the 3rd Volunteer

Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment." Lord Roberts, at that time commanding in South Africa, became its honorary colonel, and Major G. E. McClellan, late of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, was appointed to the command.

A call from the Government for volunteers for service with the Army in South Africa was responded to by members of the Bristol Rifle and Engineer Corps, and "active-service sections" from those battalions took part in the operations in South Africa, receiving a hearty send-off on their departure, and a no less cordial welcome on their return.

The 49 years' existence of the Volunteer Force may be truly said to have been a period of real self-sacrifice on the part of its members, for, although the Government gave a professedly-grateful consent to its establishment, yet the financial aid afforded was of the most meagre character, and so the various Corps found themselves called upon to provide their own head-quarters, drill-halls, and shooting-ranges, as well as their own uniforms, arms, and ammunition for practice. Even up to the present year commanding officers of Volunteers were held by law personally responsible for the debts of their corps.

And now "the old order changeth, giving place to new," and the Volunteer Force, as such, ceases to exist. May we not confidently hope and believe that the spirit of patriotism which, in spite of official neglect and discouragement, maintained the Force in such an efficient state for so many years, will still be sufficiently powerful to ensure the success of the Territorial Army which now rises, Phœnix-like, from the ashes of the Volunteer Force?

CHAPTER III.

THE RIFLES.

AS briefly stated in the previous chapter, a preliminary meeting was held on February 2nd, 1859, and another meeting on May 18th, at which it was resolved to form a Rifle Corps for the city of Bristol, and that the Mayor for the time being should be Honorary Colonel. Major Robert Bush, formerly of the 96th Regiment, was recommended as Lieut.-Colonel; and Captain H. B. O. Savile, of the North Gloucestershire Militia, as Major. The War Office at that time encouraged the formation of single companies of Volunteers rather that battalions, but, in consequence of strong representations made on behalf of the city, consent was given for the establishment of a battalion of eight companies (two more companies being added in the early part of 1860). This consent was notified in the "London Gazette" of September 14th, 1859. Other corps, consisting of single companies, had previously been formed in other parts of the country; but to Bristol belongs the honour of having formed the first Volunteer "battalion." The title of the corps was the "1st Gloucestershire (Bristol) Rifle Volunteers," its motto that of the old 1797 Volunteers—"In danger ready"—and its arms and crest the city arms, surmounted by crossed rifles. The uniform chosen was similar to that of the Rifle Brigade, and was, together with arms and equipment, mostly paid for by the members themselves.

The first offices and orderly room were in the basement of the Exchange, the quadrangle of that building being used for preliminary drills. The Society of Merchant Venturers also placed the garden at the rear of their hall, in King Street, at the disposal of the corps, and a portion of

the Great Western Hotel premises (now the Turkish Baths) was rented for drill purposes. The first parade took place in Queen Square on September 24th, 1859, by which date nearly 600 members had been enrolled. The following were the first officers:—Lieut.-Colonel, Robert Bush; Major, H. B. O. Savile; Captains, S. E. Taylor, J. Bates, W. Wright, Colston Lucas, Andrew Leighton, Charles Ringer, Henry Goodeve, J. E. Pattenson, James Ford, and Boddam Castle; Lieutenants, E. Poole, W. Britton, F. F. Fox, W. Fuidge, P. Hammonds, A. R. Miller, H. Prichard, P. D. Alexander, A. Elfon, and J. B. Gilbert; Ensigns, R. W. B. Hassell, J. Gibbs, F. Pinney, G. L. King, E. M. Harwood, Mark Whitwill, J. C. Aiken, C. Bevan, C. F. Ivens, and T. Barnes; Adjutant, Captain A. M. Jones (of the 27th Regiment); Surgeon, H. A. Hore; and Quartermaster, D. Burges, jun.

On June 23rd, 1860, the corps attended the review by the Queen in Hyde Park, and on September 18th, 500 of its members took part in a review at Gloucester. On July 24th, 1861, another review was held at Warwick, 550 Bristol riflemen being present. A great review of the Volunteers of Bristol and the neighbouring counties took place on the Downs on June 17th, 1862.

Early in 1862 a company was formed, with a capital of £10,000, with a view of securing the Bishop's College at the top of Park Street as headquarters, and in October of that year the Drill Hall was opened, being at that time the largest hall under one span in the country.

The corps attended a review at Oxford on June 24th, 1866, and another at Bath on July 25th, going to the latter 528 strong. In that year Colonel Bush retired, and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel P. W. Taylor, late of the Canadian Rifles.

A necessary accomplishment in a rifleman is good shooting, and the corps has always maintained a high standard in this respect. Its first shooting-range was at Sneyd Park, but this had to be abandoned in consequence of the making

of the Port and Pier Railway; and the splendid range at Avonmouth, opened in April, 1865, had also to be given up for a similar reason. Its site is now occupied by the "Royal Edward Dock." A new range was then made at Whitchurch, but that also has been abandoned, and at present the corps is indebted to the Engineers for the use of their range at Bedminster. At Wimbledon, in 1867, Sergeant Lane, of No. 5 Company, won the Queen's Prize of £250 and a gold medal (the latter is now in the possession of the corps). The following year Drum-Major Hutchinson won the silver medal and £60 in the first stage of the Queen's Prize. Many other marksmen might be named, but a few must suffice:—Quarter-Master Board, Lieut. Bush, Armr.-Sergeant Gibbs, Quarter-Master Gouldsmith, J. W. Arrowsmith, Ridgeway, Baker, Miller, Rinder, Bosisto, Parminter, Carr, Stooke, Small, Sweatman, Humphries, Hutchings, Husbands, Metford, and Wookey.

In 1871 the old muzzle-loaders were replaced by the breech-loading Snider-Enfield rifle. In the autumn of that year a detachment of 150 men, under Captains Low, Barnes, and Blackburne, took part in the operations of the Flying Column in the neighbourhood of Aldershot, spending eight days under canvas. In 1872 100 men, under Captains Harwood and Fussell, attended the autumn manœuvres on Salisbury Plain from August 31st to September 14th; and in 1873, 100 men, under Captains Barnes and Carpenter, spent eight days on Wigford Down, Dartmoor, taking part in the field operations under General Staveley. On July 1st, 1876, 556 members of the corps were present at the review in Hyde Park in honour of the Prince of Wales (our present King). For the first time since its formation, the whole battalion went into camp in Whit-week, 1878, utilising for that purpose the space enclosed on Durdham Down for the Royal Agricultural Show; the largest number in camp on any one day was 579.

Lieut.-Colonel P. W. Taylor died March, 1881, his

funeral being attended by a large number of officers and men. He was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel S. E. Taylor, the senior Major of the battalion, who only continued to hold the command until September 23rd, 1881. On July 9th of that year 779 members of the corps attended the review by Queen Victoria in Windsor Great Park. On the retirement of Lieut.-Colonel S. E. Taylor, the command was conferred upon Major A. M. Jones, the first adjutant of the corps, the vacant adjutancy being given to Major A. J. A. Jackson, of the 1st Royal Irish.

In 1882 spiked helmets were substituted for the old shakos, and glengarries for the peaked forage caps. In October, 1883, a terrific gale swept away the targets, mantlets, and firing stations at the Avonmouth range. These were re-constructed at a cost of £150. By Government order of May 1st, 1883, the title of the regiment was changed to "The 1st (City of Bristol) Volunteer Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment."

In 1884 the battalion went into camp at Rushmoor Hill, Aldershot, and this year the Snider-Enfield rifles were superseded by the Martini-Henry. A detachment, 269 strong, under Major Blackburn, camped on Rushmoor Hill, Aldershot, in August, 1885. In April, 1886, a detachment of the corps was formed at Thornbury, Lieut. H. P. Thurston being appointed to its control.

During the Jubilee year, 1887, the corps took part in the following functions:—On June 21st a brigade parade of all troops in garrison; June 25th a review on the Downs; and on July 9th a grand review by the Queen at Aldershot, 696 of the corps attending.

In February, 1888, Colonel Jones resigned the command, and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Methuen, of the 79th Highlanders. In July, 1889, the new arrangements came into force whereby Volunteers were formed into brigades, and the corps attended camp at Ewenny, near Bridgend, as part of the "Severn Volunteer Infantry Brigade," under Brigadier-General Bethune-Patton.

During the naval manœuvres of that year there was a "surprise parade." A telegram was delivered at headquarters at 7 p.m. on August 28th, calling the battalion out. Buglers were at once despatched to all parts of the city to sound the "alarm," and by 9.15 327 of all ranks had assembled at the top of Park Street, and marched off under Major Harwood to the railway station.

In 1890 and 1892 the Severn Brigade encamped at Minehead. On May 13th, 1893, a review took place in Ashton Park, at which the new decorations for Volunteer officers who had served continuously for 20 years were distributed, Major J. H. Woodward, Quarter-master Gouldsmith, and seven retired officers of the corps being recipients.

In July, 1893, the "Severn Brigade" camped with two other brigades (15 battalions in all) on Woodbury Common, near Exmouth. In July, 1894, they camped at Cove Hill, Aldershot, and in August, 1895, at Porthcawl. On May 11th, 1895, at the presentation of the medals "for long service in the Volunteer force," no fewer than 47 non-commissioned officers and privates of the Bristol Rifles were the recipients of this mark of distinction. This year the corps was armed with Lee-Metford rifles, in place of the Martini-Henry.

In August, 1895, the Severn Brigade camped at Porthcawl; 1896, at Minehead; 1897, at Rushmoor Hill, Aldershot; in 1898, at Porthcawl; and in 1899, at Minehead. In 1900, at the time of the war in South Africa, the battalion encamped at West Down, Salisbury Plain, from July 14th to August 12th, those attending being paid, for the first time, at Army rates. The strength of the battalion in camp was 22 officers and 832 non-commissioned officers and men.

The call for Volunteers for service in South Africa was well responded to by the Bristol Rifles, and altogether no fewer than four officers and 180 men served either in the "active service sections" or with the Imperial Yeomanry.

In connection with this it is interesting to note that practically the whole of these Volunteers rejoined the corps on their return from South Africa.

In 1902 the Volunteer Brigades were again reconstituted, and the Bristol Rifles became part of the "Gloucester and Somerset Brigade." This brigade attended camp at East Down, Salisbury Plain, in August of that year. In 1902 the sum of £7,404 was spent in providing a new roof to the Drill Hall, new orderly room, armoury, and stores, also officers' and sergeants' rooms, and a new entrance in Queen's Road, the old entrance and offices having been acquired as a site for the new Art Gallery.

In 1903 the battalion camped at Tidworth Park, Salisbury Plain; in 1904 at Minehead; in 1905 at Perham Down, Salisbury Plain; in 1906 at East Down; and in 1907 at Lulworth, Dorsetshire, having then been, with other West-country battalions, constituted the "Portland Brigade."

In 1904, upon the retirement of Colonel Methuen, Lieut.-Colonel Woodward took the command, and I cannot conclude this little history of the Bristol Rifles without calling special attention to that popular officer's record of service. Colonel J. H. Woodward, V.D., joined the Bristol Rifles as a private on February 13th, 1869; became a sergeant in 1870; received his first commission as ensign in 1871; was promoted lieutenant in 1873; captain in 1876; hon. major in 1886; major in 1890; hon. lieut.-colonel in 1892; and colonel (with full command of the battalion) on September 13th, 1905.

The corps now becomes the "4th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment," Colonel Woodward retaining the command.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ARTILLERY.

THE great popularity of the Rifle Volunteer Corps led to various suggestions for an extension of the movement. At length, on Lord Palmerston's Minister for War having informed Earl Ducie, the Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, that "an Artillery Corps for the city would not only receive official sanction, but would be considered a valuable adjunct to the Volunteer Force already established," a meeting was held at the Guildhall on November 12th, 1859, the Mayor (Mr. J. Bates) presiding, to take the matter into consideration. Resolutions approving of the formation of an Artillery Corps, and appointing a committee for that purpose, were unanimously adopted. Official sanction for the formation of four batteries was granted by the War Office on November 22nd, and about 200 men were at once enrolled. The motto adopted was "Fides et Audax," and the crest the Royal Arms with a gun. Major H. B. O. Savile, formerly of the Royal Artillery, later of the North Gloucestershire Militia, and at this time Major of the newly-formed Rifle Corps, consented, at the invitation of Earl Ducie, to become Major-Commandant of the corps, and his appointment as such was gazetted December 21st, 1859, the other officers being the following:—Captains: H. Grant, F. P. Egerton, R.N., J. B. Harford, and W. M. Baillie. Lieutenants: F. Tothill, Sholto Vere Hare, F. W. Savage, C. D. Cave, H. L. Bean, G. Garrard, E. Gore Langton, and H. St. Vincent Ames. Surgeon: A. G. Power. Adjutant: Wm. McAdam (late Royal Artillery).

In May, 1860, the corps was fortunately able to secure a long lease from the Society of Merchant Venturers of

their present parade ground in the White Ladies' Road, and an appeal was made to the public for funds for the erection of an armoury, sheds, stores, etc., at a cost of £1,100 (a drill hall was added in 1865, at a further cost of £1,200).

By subscriptions of the ladies of Bristol two "Whitworth" three-pounders were procured, and by the good offices of General Sir Richard Dacres, Commandant at Woolwich, four 18-pounders were granted by the Government. These guns were of a type found signally serviceable at a crisis in the great battle of Inkerman, and were intended for service in the Crimea; but the war ended before they were despatched. A great reception was accorded them on their arrival at Bristol on April 26th, 1860. The procession escorting them from Temple Meads to the enclosure in front of the Victoria Rooms included troops of the North Somerset Yeomanry, as well as the Bath and Bristol Rifle Corps. Some people professed to see in the grant of heavy siege guns to a corps of "Field Artillery" another proof of the alleged desire of the professional element at the War Office to cast ridicule upon the Volunteer service, but whether that was so or not the corps set loyally to work to make themselves efficient manipulators of whatever weapons were entrusted to them.

On June 23rd, 1860, they attended the great review by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park. In August, 1860, the corps was strengthened by the formation of another battery, under the command of Captain H. W. Barlow; and on June 19th, 1861, they were inspected on Durdham Downs (the Bristol Rifles being also present) by General Sir William Dacres. On June 17th, 1862, the corps took part in the review on the Downs, when no fewer than 6,746 Volunteers were present.

Repeated applications were made to the War Office for lighter and more serviceable guns, and in April, 1864, the Hon. F. H. Berkeley, M.P., in the House of Commons, commented in strong terms upon the delay in granting

this reasonable request. Shortly afterwards field guns of modern construction were forwarded to Bristol for the use of the corps, and the old battery at Portishead Point was repaired and put at their disposal for heavy gun practice, the carbine practice being carried out at Avonmouth.

In November, 1863, the Bristol, Newnham, Gloucester, and Somerset Batteries of Volunteer Artillery were formed into one brigade, called the "First Administrative Brigade, Artillery Volunteers." Lieut.-Colonel Savile was appointed to the command, with Lord Glentworth (afterwards the Earl of Limerick) as Major. Other officers who have held this post are Majors C. D. Cave, 1868; F. Bacon, R.M.A., 1871; C. Jebb (60th Rifles), 1873; and G. T. Godfrey-Fausset, 1877. In August, 1873, Colonel Savile resigned the active command, and was appointed honorary colonel of the corps, a position which he still holds. He was succeeded by Colonel A. Blunt, followed in 1879 by Colonel A. H. Versturme, who held the command till 1889.

In 1874, in connection with the scheme for the defence of the Bristol Channel, the Bristol Artillery were attached to the service of the forts on Brean Down, near Weston-super-Mare, and for a number of years camped for training at or near Uphill. Since the abandonment of the Brean Down fortifications the annual camp has been held on Staddon Heights, overlooking Plymouth Sound. Upon the retirement of Colonel Versturme, in 1889, Colonel F. C. Ord succeeded to the command of the brigade, retaining that position until the re-organisation of the force on April 1st, 1908.

At the distribution of the Volunteer officers' decorations in Ashton Park, on May 13th, 1893, Colonel Savile, Colonel Yabbicom, Major J. F. R. Daniel, and three retired officers of the corps received the coveted distinction; and at the review on the Downs, on May 11th, 1895, no fewer than 45 non-commissioned officers and men received medals for "long service in the Volunteer force."

At the meetings of the National Artillery Association the corps has always done well. In 1891 the "fire discipline" competitions were won with scores at that time the highest on record, and on three subsequent occasions that success has been repeated by No. 6 Battery.

The record of service of Colonel Savile is a remarkable one. Joining the corps at its formation, in 1859, he is still its honorary colonel. At the Coronation of our present King he received the honour of being made a C.B.—a distinction which was at a later date also conferred upon the present commander of the corps, Colonel Ord. Colonel Yabbicom's record, too, is an excellent one, joining as a gunner in 1859, and retiring in 1897, after 38 years' service, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In the matter of uniform the corps has gone in for very little change, and still retains the old-fashioned busby as a head-dress.

The corps for several years took part in the Easter Monday Volunteer reviews at Brighton. It also attended the review by Queen Victoria at Windsor, July 9th, 1881, besides the various local celebrations of the Jubilee and "Diamond" Jubilee years.

A large proportion of the members has always consisted of professional and city men, and, to suit their convenience, drills are fixed during the spring at 7.30 a.m., as well as in the evening. The corps at the end of 1907 consisted of 13 companies, of which six were at Bristol, and the others at Newnham, Gloucester, Portishead, Clevedon, and Weston-super-Mare.

By the new Territorial Army Scheme the corps is once more converted to Field Artillery, and its numbers are limited to eight companies—six in Bristol, forming Nos. 1 and 2 Batteries, and two at Gloucester, forming the 3rd Battery, Colonel Ord, C.B., retaining the command. In addition to these three batteries, there will also be an "ammunition column" to be raised. This will be formed of the surplus officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, in the proportion of two-thirds at Bristol and one-third at Gloucester.

CHAPTER V.

THE ENGINEERS.

WITH Rifle and Artillery Corps well established, Bristol's zeal for Volunteering was by no means exhausted, and on April 16th, 1861, the "London Gazette" contained an official announcement of the creation of the "2nd Gloucestershire Volunteer Engineer Corps." At first the rank and file were recruited almost exclusively from amongst the men employed at the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company's works, at Bath Road. Two companies were first formed, under Captain William Harwood (Secretary of the Bristol and Exeter Railway) and Captain J. Pearson (Locomotive Superintendent), the other officers being—Lieutenants: B. S. Cooper and G. P. Marten. Second-lieutenants: P. S. Protheroe and W. P. Wall.

The first parade of the corps took place on July 6th, 1861, and the first review attended was that held on the Downs, June 17th, 1862. In this latter year Captain Harwood resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. William Poole King, one of the directors of the line. In 1864 two additional companies were formed under Captains B. Cooper and W. Patterson, and Captain Pearson was promoted to be major.

In the early days of the corps recruit and squad drills were gone through in the Union Street Meat Market and the Cattle Market, as well as at the Bristol and Exeter shed on Bath Road. In the latter practical military engineering, in the way of making gabions, fascines, etc., was practised. Theoretical lectures and instruction in knotting, splicing, etc., were given in a room in St. Mary-le-Port Churchyard by the adjutant. Company drills were

performed in Queen Square, with an occasional light infantry drill on Pylle Hill, before the latter was covered with houses.

In 1866 Major Pearson resigned the command, and was succeeded by Major R. W. Pigeon. Recruits were no longer limited to the employees of the Bristol and Exeter Railway, and the corps thus became a city instead of a railway corps. The headquarters were removed from Temple Meads to the Exchange (the quadrangle of which was used for drills), and afterwards to a large house in Avon Street, Temple.

In 1867 the Bristol, Gloucester, Somerset, and Devon companies were formed into an administrative battalion, Major Pigeon being appointed lieutenant-colonel, and W. Poole King major. The Bristol Corps was this year strengthened by the addition of two more companies, the two new officers being Captains A. G. Gandee and J. Belcher; a seventh company was added in 1868, under Captain E. C. Plant.

Lieut.-Colonel Pigeon, retiring in 1869, was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel Dowling, of Gloucester, under whose command the corps was reduced to five companies. In 1874 Major E. C. Plant, who had joined the corps as a sapper in 1864, and gone through all the grades of rank, took over the command of the Bristol corps.

Under him it was again raised to six companies in 1876, and to its former strength of seven companies in 1877.

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Bramble commanded the administrative battalion from 1873 until 1880, in which year the Bristol Corps was again separated from the administrative battalion, and in recognition of the excellence of its work was organised into a separate battalion, Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Plant being appointed to its command. On July 9th, 1881, the corps attended the review by the Queen in Windsor Great Park. In June, 1883, premises in Trinity Street, College Green, were secured for headquarters, and upon ground adjoining the Cathedral a drill-

hall, stores, armoury, engineering sheds, etc., were provided, at a cost of about £2,500.

At the local military displays in connection with the Jubilee celebration in June, 1887, as well as the great review by Queen Victoria at Aldershot on July 9th, 1887, the Bristol Engineers mustered in good strength. On the occasion of the review in Ashton Park on May 13th, 1893, when the Volunteer officers' decorations were distributed by Colonel Salis-Schwabe, nearly 600 members of the corps were present, the officers receiving the decoration being Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Plant, Major A. U. Plant, and one retired officer. To facilitate the entrance to the review-ground of the great body of troops, working parties of the corps constructed an inclined plane, by way of which they were enabled to pass over the top of the park wall. At the review on the Downs on May 11th, 1895, fourteen non-commissioned officers and men received the medal for "long service in the Volunteer force" at the hands of General Sir Richard Harrison, who is the honorary colonel of the battalion, and was then commanding the Western District.

Upon the death of Colonel Plant, in September, 1902, Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Gibbs succeeded to the command—a position which he still retains. In 1904, the headquarters in Trinity Street being required for street improvement, the present headquarters in Park Row were secured and fitted up at considerable expense for the purpose of the battalion.

It is worthy of notice that for some years past the corps has had the distinction (possessed by only one other battalion) of having a "field company," fully equipped with pontoons, etc. Practical military engineering has always been a great feature in the work of the corps. Years ago crowds of citizens would wend their way to Stoke Park, Stapleton, or to Mr. Sinnott's grounds at Brislington, to see them throw bridges across the Duchess's pond or the River Avon; and it is a fact worthy of being placed on record that the reconstruction of the firing stations and

butts at their excellent shooting range at Bedminster was entirely carried out by the members of the corps, who encamped on the spot whilst the work was in course of execution.

Detachments from the corps have attended the camps of instruction in military engineering at Chatham since the year 1874, and the battalion has held annual camps at Kelston, at Weston-super-Mare, and for the past six years at Fort Tregantle, Plymouth.

During the late war in South Africa two sections of 25 men each volunteered for service abroad, the first under Lieutenant E. S. Sinnott, and the second under Lieutenant Lambert.

Although good shooting is hardly to be expected in a corps whose chief aim is proficiency in the science of military engineering, and, indeed, only a few years since the War Office intimated that the annual course of musketry need not be gone through, yet the corps has possessed many excellent shots. At Wimbledon, in 1878, Corporal F. V. Larway won the Prince of Wales prize of £100, and in 1879 Captain E. Lang won the Canadian Trophy and the grand aggregate. The skill of Colonel G. C. Gibbs at long-range shooting is of world-wide fame. Other good shots may be mentioned:—Quarter-master J. W. Arrowsmith, Colonel Plant, Bradner, Shepherd, Vallance, Voller, Thurston, Sinnott, Larcombe, Evans, Sainsbury, and Luce.

Under the new Territorial Army Scheme the corps will for the future be known as the "South Midland Royal Engineers," and, as it is an essential feature of that scheme that the various arms of the service shall be established in proper proportions, its strength will be reduced from 700 men to 472. (This number will be increased if Bristol is made the headquarters of the Divisional Engineers.) There are to be three companies, viz., two field companies and one divisional telegraph company. As the Cheltenham Engineer Volunteers are now disbanded, the Bristol corps will be the only one of that arm of the service in the County of Gloucester.

CHAPTER VI.

THE NAVAL ARTILLERY.

ANOTHER very important advance in the Volunteer movement was made under the "Naval Volunteer Act, 1873," when, without any preliminary public meeting or assistance invited from the general public, the Bristol contingent of the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers commenced the enrolment of members on March 14th, 1874. The credit of initiating the movement is due to Mr. Milton Lewis, afterwards a sub-lieutenant in the corps. As might naturally be expected, in an important shipping centre such as Bristol, the corps became exceedingly popular, and in a short time 400 men were enrolled. Another branch was formed at Swansea, with a further membership of 200.

In its early days, no pecuniary assistance being forthcoming from Government, members had to provide their own uniforms, as well as bear those other expenses which in Volunteer corps generally are paid for out of the Government grant. The initial expenses of starting the corps were borne by the first 22 persons enrolled.

In August, 1874, Mr. Ward Hunt (First Lord of the Admiralty) paid a visit to Bristol, with a view of promoting the success of the movement, in which, he stated, the Admiralty felt much interested. Arrangements were made for drills on board H.M.S. Dædalus (the Naval Reserve training ship), and the Admiralty placed a gunboat at the disposal of the corps for cruising, as well as cutters for boat practice. In December, 1874, Captain M. B. Dunn, R.N., was appointed commanding officer, holding that position till 1877, when, having been promoted Rear-Admiral, he resigned, and was succeeded by Captain Par-

sons, R.N. Captain Parsons, resigning in 1879, was succeeded in the command by Captain T. S. Gooch, R.N. In 1883 Captain R. B. Sayce succeeded to the command, retaining that position until the disbandment of the corps in 1892.

On July 9th, 1881, the corps formed part of the Naval Brigade which attended the Volunteer review by Queen Victoria in Windsor Great Park. I think no one present will ever forget the scene of enthusiasm when the brigade led the "march-past," the massed bands playing "A Life on the Ocean Wave." In November, 1881, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh visited Bristol, and inspected the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers. On June 25th, 1887, the corps was present at the Jubilee review on Durdham Down, being then nearly 600 strong. On July 25th, 1888, H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor (the late Duke of Clarence) came to Bristol and unveiled the statue to Queen Victoria in College Green. In the evening of the same day he distributed the prizes to the Naval Volunteers at Colston Hall.

Towards the end of 1891, in consequence of the recommendations of a committee presided over by the late Admiral Tryon, the Government intimated that they would no longer continue the Government grant to this class of Volunteers. Two town's meetings to protest against this decision were convened by the Mayor (Dr. Charles Highett). Resolutions of remonstrance were passed and sent to the Admiralty, but without effect, and on March 31st, 1892, the "Bristol Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers" ceased to exist.

In 1903 the Admiralty resolved to re-constitute the Naval Volunteers under the title of "Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve." A committee of gentlemen interested in the movement was appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty, Bristol being represented upon the committee by Mr. Goodenough Taylor, who had been an energetic and zealous officer in the disbanded brigade. Sanction was

given for the establishment of a Bristol Division of five companies, each comprising 105 officers and men—three companies to be formed at Bristol, one at Weston-super-Mare, and one at Barnstaple. Commander S. H. Thompson was appointed to the command of the division, and on December 21st, 1903, the enrolment of members commenced. Although the new conditions of service were much more onerous than the old (the members incurring the liability of being called up at any time for service in the Fleet), the three Bristol companies, under the command of Lieutenants C. S. C. Vaughan, C. E. Thompson, and C. H. Brown, very rapidly obtained their numbers. In 1907 Commander Thompson retired, and was succeeded by the Hon. Cyril Ward, M.V.O., R.N., the present commander.

Arrangements have been made for sea training, the men going, at times convenient to themselves, for short periods of service in the ships of the Reserve Squadron of the Devonport Division. Parties of officers and men also attend special courses of instruction at the Schools of Gunnery and Signalling at Portsmouth. The corps, being identified with the Royal Navy, is, of course, quite unaffected by the new "Territorial Army" Scheme.

CHAPTER VII.

"THE THIRD BATTALION."

THE time of stress and strain during the progress of the war in South Africa was also a time of great activity in Volunteering. In the year 1900 the efficient Volunteers in Great Britain increased by about 40,000 over the numbers for the previous year, and Bristol furnished her fair share towards this. The Rifles, as well as the Artillery and Engineers, were soon up to their authorised establishment, and a letter appeared in the Bristol newspapers, written by Mr. Ernest G. Mardon, conveying a suggestion that another battalion should be formed in Bristol. Mr. Mardon's suggestion was warmly supported by Mr. H. C. Woodcock (now the senior captain in the battalion), and an influential committee was formed to put the matter in proper trim.

On February 27th, 1900, the Boer Army, under General Piet Cronje, surrendered at Paardeberg to the British Army, under General Lord Roberts. Mr. Mardon, wiring congratulations to General Roberts, asked if he would become the honorary colonel of the proposed new corps, and received the reply, "Yes."

On July 24th, 1900, it was announced, through the War Office, that Queen Victoria had been "pleased to accept the services of a new battalion of Bristol Volunteer Riflemen," to be designated "the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment," with an establishment of eight companies. Major G. E. McClellan (late of the 3rd Dragoon Guards) was appointed to the command, with Lieut.-Colonel C. E. H. Hobhouse, M.P., of the 60th Rifles, as major, amongst other officers commissioned being Captains T. J. Moss-Flower, H. C. Woodcock, P. J. Mar-

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don, E. Hutchinson, A. C. Mardon, and J. H. Cooke, Surgeon-Captain T. M. Carter, and Major J. F. W. Boyce (Warwickshire Regiment) as adjutant. The uniform adopted was khaki, with scarlet facings, the head-dress slouch hats with plumes of feathers. Bedford cord breeches and bandoliers were somewhat of a novelty for infantry, the latter being copied from the Boer pattern, and considered by the British military authorities worthy of imitation. The crest chosen was the arms of the City of Bristol, surmounted by a Sphinx (superscribed "Egypt"), the badge of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

The first enrolment took place in July, 1900, at the Guildhall, and by the end of the year 900 men had been admitted to the ranks. As the war fever was then at its greatest height, the battalion was able to insist on a very stringent test as to stamina, height, and physique, with the result that the average height of the men was found to be two inches greater than required by the War Office. Drills were commenced forthwith, Bedminster Police Station and the Kingsdown Baths being utilised for that purpose, the temporary headquarters being in Baldwin Street.

An appeal was made to the Bristol public for funds to equip the corps, but owing, no doubt, to the great demands upon the generosity of the citizens for the Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of soldiers and their families (not to mention increased taxes), only about £600 was subscribed. Mr. Heber Mardon presented the corps with transport wagons and a water cart, as well as a set of silver instruments for the band. At the end of the Volunteer year, although the corps had only been in existence a few months, the War Office showed its appreciation of the progress made by giving a capitation grant for the year 1900. An interesting feature of the formation of the corps was the enrolment of companies identified with various professions, such as teachers, insurance companies' representatives, etc.

The present headquarters at St. Michael's Hill were secured in November, 1900. On May 2nd, 1901, Lord Roberts visited Bristol to open a Bazaar at Colston Hall, in aid of the Children's Hospital. On arrival at Bristol station, he inspected the battalion, which was formed up on the incline at Temple Meads, the parade state showing 684 officers and men present. The first general inspection of the corps was made by Major-General Turner, on Durdham Down, June 30th, 1901. In August of the same year a regimental camp was held at Box, near Bath, shortly after which Lieut.-Colonel McClellan, retiring from the command of the battalion, was succeeded by Colonel C. E. H. Hobhouse, M.P., who still retains that position. Lieut.-Colonel E. Podmore Clark succeeded him as major, and, on Major Clark's retirement, Captain T. J. Moss-Flower was in April, 1905, appointed major.

On the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Bristol, on March 5th, 1902, to cut the first sod of the Royal Edward Dock at Avonmouth, the corps furnished a guard of honour, every man of which stood six feet and over in height.

The corps has always been attached to the same Volunteer Infantry Brigade as the 1st Battalion, and has attended camp with them as follows:—In 1902, East Down, Salisbury Plain, where they were inspected by Lord Roberts; 1903, Tidworth Park, Salisbury Plain; 1904, Minehead; 1905, Perham Down, Salisbury Plain; 1906, West Down; and in 1907 at Lulworth, Dorsetshire.

The generosity of Mr. Heber Mardon, Mr. Samuel White, the late Mr. W. Yate Stevens, and others has provided the corps with many handsome challenge trophies, and, although not possessing a range of its own, excellent progress in shooting has been made. The social side of Volunteering has by no means been neglected in the 3rd Battalion, an officers' mess, a sergeants' mess, a corporals' mess, as well as a Glee Club, all having place in the internal economy of the corps; and the headquarters at St.

Michael's Hill have been the scene of many pleasant "smokers" and promenade concerts.

A considerable number of officers and men volunteered for service in South Africa, but the corps was of too recent formation for its members to comply with the requirements of the War Office as to length of service, etc.

Sergt.-Major Farquharson, of the 42nd Highlanders (Black Watch), was appointed to the corps at its formation, and all concerned in its establishment and subsequent progress will readily acknowledge that a great deal of the credit for its success is due to his initiative and force of character, as well as to his personal popularity.

Under the new "Territorial Army" Scheme, the corps (like its elder sister, the 1st Battalion) suffers little change. Its authorised establishment is increased from 946 to 1,009, and, instead of the "Third," it will henceforth be known as "the Sixth Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment."

NOTE.—The Six Battalions of the Gloucestershire Regiment are as follows:—

1st Battalion: Formerly the 28th Foot.

2nd Battalion: Formerly the 61st Foot.

3rd Battalion: Formerly the South Gloucestershire Militia.

4th Battalion: Formerly the 1st Volunteer Battalion (Bristol Rifles).

5th Battalion: Formerly the 2nd Volunteer Battalion (formed of Corps in various parts of the County).

6th Battalion: Formerly the 3rd Volunteer Battalion.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CADETS.

IN the early days of the Volunteer movement in Bristol more than one attempt was made to organise corps of cadets, so as to utilise the services of youths anxious to become proficient in warlike exercises, but not eligible for admittance to the ranks of the authorised corps on account of their youth. As early as the year 1861 companies of cadets were formed in connection with both the Rifle and Artillery Corps. The Rifle cadets wore a handsome uniform, with a shako the envy of all beholders. The Artillery cadets wore a uniform similar to the "undress" uniform of the corps to which they were attached, a white cross-belt, and black pouch, but neither waistbelt nor sword. At the great Volunteer review on Durdham Downs, June 17th, 1862, both cadet corps were present, and proudly marched past with their respective battalions.

The Bristol Cadet Corps lingered out a more or less precarious existence for a few years, and not until the year 1876 could it be said that any real success attended the venture. In that year a corps of cadets was formed in connection with Clifton College, the officers being members of the teaching staff of that institution. It was attached to the Bristol Volunteer Engineer Corps, and was the first Engineer Cadet Corps formed in the country.

The Clifton College Cadets have from time to time taken part in the interesting field days in connection with the "Public School Corps," and in shooting competitions have frequently attained a high position. At Wimbledon, in 1880, in the competition in which each public school was represented by one file, the "Cadet Corps Trophy" was won by Sapper Robert Percival and Bugler Veale, of the

Clifton College Cadets. This trophy was again won for Clifton in 1886 and in 1900.

The "Spencer" Cup was won in 1884 by Sergeant Luce, and the "Ashburton" Shield by the College eight in 1885.

On July 9th, 1887, the corps attended the great Jubilee review by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, at Aldershot, forming part of the "Brigade of Public School Cadets," Colonel E. C. Plant, of the Bristol Volunteer Engineers, being in command of the Brigade. On May 2nd, 1901, on the occasion of the visit of Field-Marshal Lord Roberts to Bristol, the Clifton College Cadets furnished a guard of honour at Temple Meads Railway Station.

On August 30th, 1880, soon after the removal of the Grammar School from the old premises in Unity Street to the new school in Tyndall's Park, a cadet corps was formed from amongst the scholars of that school. They were attached to the Bristol Volunteer Artillery Corps, their first officer being Captain J. G. Muschamp. On October 17th, 1882, on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to Bristol, as patron of the Bristol Musical Festival, the Grammar School Cadets formed a guard of honour, being stationed, with two three-pounder Whitworth guns, near the Drawbridge. About two years later the youthful corps ceased to exist.

In 1900 the "Grammar School Cadet Corps" was revived, under the command of Captain J. G. Holmes, being attached to the Bristol Rifles. On the retirement of Captain Holmes, in 1907, Captain Cyril Norwood (head master of the school) was appointed to the command.

Although receiving no encouragement from the War Office in the shape of a Government grant for attendance in camp, a number of cadets have annually spent a week or more under canvas with the corps to which they have been attached, thereby acquiring a practical knowledge of a soldier's life and duties. This knowledge has, no doubt, been of considerable advantage to those of their number who have in after-life adopted the "profession of arms."

A glance at the record-boards on the walls of the "Big School," or at the handsome war memorial on the College terrace, will show that it is no small number of Cliftonians who have thus served their country faithfully and well.

Under the new Army Scheme the connection of the Cadet corps with the other units of the "Territorial Army" has been severed. They are for the future to be an entirely separate organisation, and will be known as "Officers' Training Corps," being looked upon as schools of instruction and training for the future officers of either the Regular Army or of the second line, the "Territorials." They will be formed into two divisions, the senior division being composed of corps attached to the Universities, and the junior division of those attached to public schools. Our local cadets will, of course (until our University is established), belong to the "junior division."

CHAPTER IX.

THE BANDS.

IT is a sort of pious fiction in military circles that brass bands have no place in the internal economy of infantry battalions, and, indeed, the only music officially recognised by the War Office is that of pipers, drummers, and buglers. But in this, as in all other matters connected with the Volunteer movement, official neglect and indifference have never altogether prevented, although they may for a time have hindered, the provision of anything believed to be necessary for the well-being of the force. And so the various Volunteer corps have always been well furnished with bands, the responsibility for their establishment and maintenance being generally undertaken by the officers of the respective corps.

Music plays an important part in all the various conditions of military life, for whether it be upon a long "route march," when the brass band, fifes and drums, and bugles alternately beguile the weary way; or when in camp or quarters at early morn they emphasise the summons of the "reveille," or at "retreat" salute the setting sun; or when after a heavy "field day" (during which the chief or only music has been the "sound of the cannon's rattle") they cheer the homeward march of the tired soldier; or on great ceremonial parades, after the "Royal" or "general salute," the graceful strains of "the troop" are wafted on the breeze, military music always exercises an inspiring influence on all who come under its spell.

And what shall be said of the sublime effect when, at great gatherings of troops at combined church parades, whether in camp or Cathedral, the massed bands lead the singing of the grand old hymns which soldiers, of whatever religious denomination they may be, know and love so well? Again, who has not, as he followed some dear comrade to his last resting-place, been touched by the solemn strains of military music? It may be the Scottish

lament, "The Flowers of the Forest," wailed out by a band of pipers, or the simple sacred melody, "Sicilian Mariners," played by the fifes, with drums muffled, or, perhaps, most impressive of all, Handel's Dead March in "Saul" by a full military band—each and all alike produce an effect that lingers in the memory long after the audible sounds have ceased.

In an interesting book published in 1798, entitled, "The Rise, Progress, and Military Improvement of the Bristol Volunteers," we read that after the ceremony of the presentation of colours to that corps on Durdham Down, June 9th, 1797, "the band played 'God Save the King' and a variety of other pieces." The band numbered twelve performers, viz., John Percivall, Limekiln Lane; Joseph Stansbury, Marlborough Street; Andrew Winpenny Waite, Canon Street; David Williams, Beaufort Court; John Cheston Hobbs, Penn Street; Joseph Sturge, Marlborough Street; William Fryer, Canon Street; William Watkins, St. James's Churchyard; John Rew, Allen's Court; William Bush, Bridewell Bridge; William Lucas, Montague Street; and William Hicks, Rosemary Street. There were also thirteen drummers, who received pay from the Government, so apparently even in those days the Government limited its encouragement of music to recognising and financially supporting the drummers. Andrew Winpenny Waite was a trumpeter, and played at a performance of Handel's "Messiah" which took place in St. Paul's Church, Portland Square, in 1803. By the similarity of names I am inclined to the belief that the late Andrew W. Waite, the well-known Bristol violinist, was a son of the above named.

What the regimental "quick-step" of these old Volunteers of 1797 was, or, indeed, if they had a march of their very own, we know not, although there is in the possession of a Bristol gentleman a copy of a "troop" composed for and dedicated to them.

When, in 1859, the Bristol Rifle Corps was formed, the battalion not only adopted the uniform of the Rifle Bri-

gade, but, in common with many of the rifle corps throughout the kingdom, also adopted the regimental quick-step of the old 95th Rifles (then the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade). This well-known air—

> "I'm ninety-five, I'm ninety-five,
> And to keep single I'll contrive,"

the Bristol Rifles continued to use for the regimental "march past" until 1883, when, being constituted one of the Volunteer battalions of the Gloucestershire regiment, they naturally adopted the "quick-step" of that regiment, "The Kynegad Slashers," the "old step" immortalised by Rudyard Kipling in "The Drums of the Fore and Aft."

In reporting the great Volunteer review on Durdham Downs, which took place June 17th, 1862, the local chroniclers, whilst complimenting the bands, some of whom appeared on parade for the first time, called attention to the "unpleasing effect" produced at the "general salute" by each band playing eight bars of a different tune at the same time, instead of the bands being "massed," as they now are on such occasions.

It is no mere compliment to say that our local Volunteer bands have reached and maintained a high state of efficiency, and the names of many men well known in the Bristol musical world are to be found on the rolls of the various corps. Amongst them may be named H. Gruning, Herr Pfeiffer, W. Biggs, W. H. Midwinter, H. Richardson, G. R. Chapman, G. A. Webb, T. Glover, W. C. Ace, F. Watts, W. H. Harwell, T. Pitcher, R. Court, G. H. Wilson, J. O. Brook, R. T. Ward, T. Riseley, T. Weymouth, J. G. Robbins, W. Maby, J. Darby, G. Godfrey, J. H. Hirst, W. Hibbins, W. Cummins, J. P. Hatton, and J. Williams.

It is very much to be desired that under the new Army Scheme definite provision will be made for the proper maintenance of the excellent bands which are now the proud inheritance of the various battalions of the Territorial Army, and that harmony shall continue to prevail in every sense of the word.

CHAPTER X.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

IT will readily be admitted that one of the most essential requirements of the Volunteer organisation is that of an efficient medical service, and it will have been, no doubt, already noticed how, upon the formation of the various corps of Volunteers in Bristol, gentlemen of high attainments in medicine and surgery were found both ready and willing to take the position of Medical Officer, and to freely render their valuable services in the cases of illness and accident incidental to, and indeed almost inseparable from, the assembly of large bodies of men either in field or camp.

Amongst those of our fellow-citizens who have so freely given their time and talents to the service of their comrades in the Volunteer force the following may be named: Drs. A. Hore, G. M. Stansfield, Crosby Leonard, F. Richardson Cross, R. W. Tippets, J. Paul Bush, A. Stevens, H. Skelton, A. W. Prichard, and James Young, of the Rifles; Drs. R. G. R. Lansdown, D. S. Davies, J. S. Carleton, F. Weatherly, W. Cooper, Eubulus Williams, F. Poole Lansdown, L. A. Weatherly, W. K. Brock, A. G. Power, and T. B. Lansdown, of the Artillery; Drs. John Smart, Henry Pigeon, W. G. Carter, James Knill, G. A. Gloag, J. M. M. Thomas, and A. F. Blagg, of the Engineers; Drs. Charles Wigan, W. E. Lloyd, W. J. Tivy, and W. K. Wills, of the Naval Artillery; and Drs. T. M. Carter, F. St. John Bullen, and C. E. Brown, of the 3rd Battalion.

For several years after the establishment of the Volunteer force the Medical Officer of a volunteer corps worked practically alone. He might, indeed, have a man "told off" as an orderly to carry a case containing his medical

and surgical appliances, but otherwise he was quite unprovided with assistance in the form of dressers or stretcher-bearers. In cases of serious illness or accident his patients had to be removed to a military or civil hospital, or to their homes, in either case probably several miles away. At length, in consequence of the frequent complaints of the inconvenience and suffering caused by the inadequate equipment of this branch of the Volunteer service, an order was issued that a number of men should be detailed at every parade to act in the capacity of stretcher-bearers. This was followed in 1891 by the establishment of properly-organised ambulance sections, the members of which were instructed and trained under the direct supervision of the Medical Officers of their respective corps. At the same period battalion Medical Officers received the long-delayed recognition of their position as officers, and were accorded military rank as Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonels, Surgeon-Captains, or Surgeon-Lieutenants. During attendance at brigade camps the various regimental sections were drilled collectively as "bearer companies," under the direction of a Brigade Surgeon-Major.

During the late war in South Africa Surgeon-Lieutenant J. Paul Bush (son of Colonel Robert Bush, first commander of the Bristol Rifles, and himself for many years connected with that corps as one of its Medical Officers) went to South Africa as senior surgeon of the Princess Christian Hospital, established in connection with the Natal Field Force, and also as principal Medical Officer of H.M. hospital ship Lismore Castle. Dr. Bush was accompanied by three other Bristol men, viz., Messrs. A. L. Fleming, E. Mountjoy Pearce, and A. B. Cridland. Sister Fisher, from the Bristol Infirmary, was also on the nursing staff of the Princess Christian Hospital, which was the gift of another Bristolian, Mr. Alfred Mosely. The excellent work done at this hospital was recognised by Lord Roberts, who, in one of his despatches, said: "None but those on the spot can realise how much the Princess Christian Hospital, under Dr. Paul Bush, contributed to the comfort and well-

being of the sick and wounded." Dr. Bush was, on his return, invested by the King with the Order of St. Michael and St. George, as well as the South African medal and clasps.

In connection with the new Territorial Army Scheme, provision is made for the establishment of a Royal Army Medical Corps, which will be fully equipped with "field" and "base" hospitals. The South Midland District, in which Bristol is included, will be supplied with three field ambulances, one of which, to be known as the "Third South Midland Field Ambulance," is to be raised in Gloucestershire. It will comprise 10 officers and 220 men. To Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Prichard, V.D., who has been one of the Medical Officers of the Bristol Rifles since 1883, has been entrusted the enrolment and organisation of the local force, with Surgeon-Captain James Young, also for several years a Medical Officer of the Bristol Rifles, as second in command. An officer of the Regular Royal Army Medical Corps has been appointed as adjutant to assist in the detail work of organisation. In connection with the "base" hospital, Dr. J. Paul Bush (administrator), Mr. A. L. Fleming (registrar), and Mr. Walters (quarter-master), will form the permanent staff for the Bristol District.

It may be well to point out that each individual battalion of the new Territorial Army will still be furnished with a proper complement of Medical Officers and stretcher-bearers, the former being either regularly enrolled in the corps or detailed from the Army Medical Corps for service with the battalion. In addition to the recognised and duly-enrolled organisations above named, this part of the new Army Scheme also gives opportunity for the purely voluntary assistance of gentlemen of the medical profession.

For instance, in the event of hostilities in the neighbourhood of Bristol, a "general" hospital will be established here, and a number of local doctors have already been registered as willing to give their services in connection with its administration.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CAVALRY.

THE earliest record we have of Volunteer cavalry in Bristol (always, of course, excepting that of the historic assembly of horsemen on Clifton Down at the time of the Spanish Armada, and of two troops formed in 1716, as related in Chapter I.), is contained in an announcement in "Felix Farley's Journal" of February 18th, 1797, that a body of provisional cavalry was being formed, and that a number of Bristol merchants and tradesmen had entered into an association with a view of guarding the prisoners of war at Stapleton.

This cavalry corps was called the "Bristol Light Horse Volunteers," its captain being Mr. W. B. Elwyn, of Berkeley Square. It was subsequently formed into two troops, under Captains Richard Pearsall, of Clifton, and Levi Ames, of Berkeley Square; John Vaughan, of St. Michael's Hill, and John Wedgwood, of Cote, being lieutenants. In an interesting book published in 1798 it is recorded that at the presentation of colours to the Volunteer Infantry on Durdham Down, June 9th, 1797, "in Compliment to the occasion, most of the Gentlemen of the Bristol Cavalry attended in order to keep the ground clear." The corps was finally disbanded in 1814.

The close association of Bristol with the adjacent counties of Gloucester and Somerset is no doubt accountable for the fact that since that time the young men of Bristol having a fancy for the cavalry branch of the Volunteer service have joined what have been looked upon as Bristol troops or squadrons in connection with the Volunteer cavalry or Yeomanry of those counties.

As early as 1795 we find Gloucestershire taking steps to

establish troops of Volunteer cavalry. In the summer of that year Mr. Powell Snell, of North Leach, raised a troop for the town and district of Cheltenham, and other troops were formed in various parts of the county. The uniform chosen was similar to that worn by the Light Dragoons of that period—a blue jacket with white braid, white leather breeches, half boots, sash and belt, black leather helmet, with red and white feathers at the side. Pistols were carried in waist-belts. Straight swords were issued with leathern scabbards, but these were soon afterwards changed for curved sabres with iron scabbards; twelve men per troop were armed with carbine and bayonet. In 1796 Captain Snell was appointed to the command of all the Volunteer cavalry in the county of Gloucester. In 1797 five more troops were raised, including the two Bristol troops already referred to, and a troop at Henbury, under Captain Chas. J. Harford. At the peace of 1801 all the above were disbanded, except the Cheltenham and Chepstow troops.

At the re-commencement of the war in 1803 the cavalry was again embodied, Bristol furnishing two troops, Henry Dupont being Major-Commandant; Levi Ames and Robert Kingsmill, captains. A dismounted troop was also formed at Henbury, under Captain C. J. Harford. On May 8th, 1804, a standard was presented to the Bristol troops, after a service in Clifton Church, at which the singing was led by the lay-clerks and choristers of Bristol Cathedral. The Prince of Wales visited Bristol in 1807, and was escorted by the Bristol cavalry as far as Berkeley on his return.

At the return of peace in 1814 there was a general reduction of the Volunteers and Yeomanry throughout the country, and by the end of 1815 the only Yeomanry left in Gloucestershire was the Gloucester troop, and this was maintained more to act as police than as soldiers, riots at that period being frequent in the county capital. In 1827 this troop was also disbanded.

In 1830 steps were taken to re-establish the force in Gloucestershire, for the regrettable reason that they were required to suppress the civil disturbances then so sadly frequent in the county. The first troop was raised by Christopher William Codrington, of Dodington, and was known as the "Marshfield and Dodington troop."

By the end of 1831 no fewer than seven troops were embodied, one of which, the Winterbourne and Stapleton troop, were raised mainly in the suburbs of Bristol, being commanded by Captain V. J. Graeme, of Oldbury Court. This troop was raised after the lamentable riots at Bristol, during which the Dodington troop came to Bristol with commendable alacrity, and placed themselves at the disposal of the authorities at a very critical stage of the disturbances. A terrible lack of judgment was shown by Lieut.-Colonel Brereton (the officer commanding the military in Bristol) in neglecting to avail himself of the assistance thus offered, and the Dodington troop returned home. Returning later on, they, with the Tetbury troop, rendered good service in protecting property and restoring order in the city, receiving the thanks both of the civil and military authorities for their zeal and promptitude.

In 1834 the various troops were regimented under the title of the "Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry," the Marquess of Worcester being gazetted to the command on April 21st, 1834. The uniform was changed to scarlet, and the helmet discarded for a shako. In 1835 the regiment assembled for the first time at Clifton for "permanent drill," their eight days' training concluding with an inspection on the Downs, at which 26 officers and 360 men were present. The annual training was at Gloucester in 1836-1837, and at Bristol from 1838 to 1852, when Cheltenham became the place of meeting.

On December 26th, 1838, the Dodington and Stapleton troops were called out to assist the civil power on the occasion of a great Chartist meeting on Brandon Hill. Happily

no serious disturbance occurred. By permission of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the regiment in 1841 assumed the title of "The Royal Gloucestershire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry." In 1846 considerable amusement was caused to the public, as well as some dissatisfaction in the regiment, by an order of the Duke of Beaufort that the men should grow moustaches. In 1847 the regiment discarded scarlet and adopted, with the Hussar uniform, the name of "The Gloucestershire Hussars."

In 1860 the old-fashioned shakos were replaced by busbys, with scarlet bag and scarlet and white plumes. On September 18th of the same year the regiment attended a review at Gloucester of all the Volunteers of the county, and on June 17th, 1862, the great review on Durdham Down. From 1882 the pelisse or slung jacket ceased to be worn, except by officers in levée dress. In 1897 our present King (then Prince of Wales) inspected the regiment at Cheltenham.

The regiment furnished a squadron for service in the war in South Africa (which served under Colonel Golightly) in General Sir Leslie Rundle's Division.

In 1904 the present Duke of Beaufort, who had been in command since 1887, became Hon. Colonel of the regiment, being succeeded by Colonel H. H. Calvert; Major Eustace Hill being in command of the Bristol squadron. Under the new Army Scheme the regiment will be known as "The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (Yeomanry)."

As regards the cavalry in the county of Somerset, it may be said to have originated in the formation of a troop of Volunteer cavalry at Frome Selwood, in conformity with the resolutions of a meeting held there on May 2nd, 1798. The cavalry were to be 60 in number, and, together with a company of infantry, were to be known as the "Frome Military Association." On June 22nd, 1798, the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Earl Paulet, signified the King's gracious acceptance of their services. The uniform selected for the cavalry was as follows:—A deep blue jacket, with

chain wings on the shoulders; buff collar, buff breeches, rose-button military boots, helmet, and black velvet stock, The arms issued were "scimitars" and pistols.

At the peace of 1801 they were not entirely disbanded, it being stated in a letter dated April 19th, 1802, from the War Secretary, Lord Hobart, that "with regard to the Yeomanry and Volunteer Cavalry there were circumstances connected with that part of the Volunteer Institution which have suggested the propriety of the continuance of a proportion, if not the whole, of it during peace." The present "North Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry" may therefore claim to have had a continued existence for the past 110 years.

On the re-commencement of the war in 1803 it was resolved, at a meeting held at the George Hotel, Frome, "That this troop do offer their services to march to any part of Great Britain for the defence thereof on any invasion, or of the appearance of any enemy in force on the coast, or to suppress any rebellion or insurrection arising or existing during any such invasion, whenever they shall be summoned by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county." The Lord-Lieutenant accepted the services of the corps on behalf of the Government, and selected the uniform as follows:—Scarlet jacket without tails, faced with black at cuffs and collar, silver lace braiding across the breast; false pocket, braided; white kerseymere breeches, black military boots with fixed spurs, short gloves, old Artillery drivers' helmet and white feather, white cross and sword belts and slings. Arms:—Sabre and iron scabbard and one pistol.

In 1804 the various independent corps in the county of Somerset were regimented under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Horner. In 1814 it was notified that the regiment, which then numbered 383, exclusive of officers, should be for the future known as "The North Somerset Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry." When, in the year 1817, a Bedminster troop, numbering 57 men, under

Captain J. H. Smith, was added, the regiment became more closely connected with Bristol. Their arms at that time consisted of a sabre and one pistol, 12 men per troop being armed with an "Elliott" long carbine and bayonet. On many occasions they have been called to the aid of the civil power, notably in the lamentable riots at Bristol in October, 1831, when they received, through the Mayor (Charles Pinney), the thanks of the magistrates for their effective help in restoring order.

On July 19th, 1843, the Bath and Bedminster troops had the honour of acting as escort to H.R.H. the Prince Consort when he visited Bristol on the occasion of the floating of the "Great Britain" steamship. On many occasions since then the regiment has been represented at reviews and other military and civil displays in Bristol. In 1844, in place of the old horse pistols, the regiment was armed with new percussion carbines, and two years later the straight sword of the Life Guards replaced the old sabre.

In 1900 a service squadron, the "48th Company Imperial Yeomanry," under Captain W. M. Sherston, embarked for service in South Africa, where it had the honour of being selected as the bodyguard of Field-Marshal Lord Roberts. Two other companies were formed and dispatched later, the whole serving with honour to their regiment.

In 1901 the title of the regiment was changed to "North Somerset Imperial Yeomanry," and the service dress was adopted for drill, the blue walking-out dress being retained. Colonel W. M. Sherston, D.S.O., succeeded to the command of the regiment in 1903, and on the death of the Earl of Cork Lord Roberts became, in 1904, its honorary colonel. Major A. L. Kelly commands the Bristol Squadron.

The peculiar conditions of service appertaining to the Yeomanry, including the liability to be called upon to quell civil commotion and their receipt of pay and allowances when up for duty, were considered by the military

authorities to justify the rejection of their claim to receive the decorations and medals for long service in the Volunteer force, and it was not till ten years after they were issued to Volunteers that these marks of distinction were granted to the Yeomanry. Captain R. C. Stephens, of Bristol, who served for 46 years in the North-Somerset Yeomanry, and Quarter-master Limbrick, of the Dodington troop, who served for over 50 years in the Gloucestershire Hussars, are good specimens of the many long-service men to be found in those corps; but all are quite young recruits compared with Bandmaster J. P. Hatton, who this year retires after 60 years' continuous service in the Gloucestershire Hussars.

At the annual trainings previous to 1900 the Yeomanry were billetted and their horses stabled in the town selected for the muster; but in 1900 camps were established, the men going under canvas, and temporary buildings being erected for the horses. In 1906 recourse was had to picketting instead of stabling the horses, the fear that injury would accrue from exposure to the weather proving quite groundless. The uniforms of the cavalry are a familiar sight in the city of Bristol, as they are always ready to take part in those civil and military functions to which their presence adds so much life and brilliancy.

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